

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A portal imaging device positioning apparatus attachable to a radiation therapy device gantry, comprising:
a ~~telescoping~~ support attachable to said gantry; and
a vertically-adjustable portal imaging device positioner attachable to said support, said portal imaging device positioner operable in a first mode and a second mode, wherein in said first mode said portal imaging device positioner maintains an imaging panel in position to receive radiation passing through a body maintained in a patient plane, and wherein in said second mode portal imaging device positioner maintains said imaging panel to receive radiation substantially at said patient plane in a characterization mode.

2. (Currently Amended) A portal imaging device positioning apparatus attachable to a radiation therapy device gantry, comprising:
a ~~telescoping~~ support attachable to said gantry; and
a vertically-adjustable portal imaging device positioner attachable to said support, said portal imaging device positioner operable in a first mode and a second mode, wherein in said first mode said portal imaging device positioner maintains an imaging panel in position to receive radiation passing through a body maintained in a patient plane, and wherein in said second mode portal imaging device positioner maintains said imaging panel to receive radiation substantially at said patient plane in a characterization mode;

said vertically-adjustable portal imaging device positioner including:
a vertical drive unit adjustably attachable at a mounting cavity to said support; and

a mounting unit adjustably attachable to said vertical drive unit, and adapted to deploy said imaging panel from a vertical position to a horizontal position.

3. (Previously Presented) A portal imaging device positioning apparatus attachable to a radiation therapy device gantry, comprising:

a support attachable to said gantry; and

a vertically-adjustable portal imaging device positioner attachable to said support, said portal imaging device positioner operable in a first mode and a second mode, wherein in said first mode said portal imaging device positioner maintains an imaging panel in position to receive radiation passing through a body maintained in a patient plane, and wherein in said second mode portal imaging device positioner maintains said imaging panel to receive radiation substantially at said patient plane;

said vertically-adjustable portal imaging device positioner including:

a vertical drive unit adjustably attachable at a mounting cavity to said support; and

a mounting unit adjustably attachable to said vertical drive unit, and adapted to deploy said imaging panel from a vertical position to a horizontal position;

wherein said vertical drive unit is adjustable in said first mode such that a top of said support is substantially adjacent a top of said mounting cavity, and adjustable in said second mode such that a bottom of said support is substantially adjacent a bottom of said mounting cavity.

4. (Original) A portal imaging device positioning apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said imaging panel is adapted to be temporarily secured to said support during an adjustment from said first mode to said second mode.

5. (Currently Amended) A portal imaging device positioning method, comprising:

adjusting an imaging panel operably secured to a radiation therapy device gantry from a first position in a first mode below a patient plane to a second position in a second characterization mode at a patient plane;

said adjusting comprising:

temporarily securing a vertically positioned imaging panel to a telescoping support;

temporarily unsecuring a main drive assembly from said support;

adjusting said main drive assembly to said second position;

re-securing said main drive assembly; and

unsecuring said vertically positioned imaging panel.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A portal imaging device positioning method, comprising:

adjusting an imaging panel operably secured to a radiation therapy device gantry from a first position in a first mode below a patient plane to a second position in a second mode at a patient plane, said adjusting comprising:

temporarily securing a vertically positioned imaging panel to a support;

temporarily unsecuring a main drive assembly from said support;

adjusting said main drive assembly to said second position;

re-securing said main drive assembly; and

unsecuring said vertically positioned imaging panel

said adjusting further comprising:

adjusting said vertical drive unit in said first mode such that a top of said

support is substantially adjacent a top of a mounting cavity on said vertical drive unit;
and

adjusting said vertical drive unit in said second mode such that a bottom of
said support is substantially adjacent a bottom of said mounting cavity.

8. (Original) A method according to Claim 7, further comprising
horizontally deploying said imaging panel after said imaging panel has been adjusted to
said second position.

9. (Currently Amended) A portal imaging system, comprising:
a radiation delivery apparatus; and
means for deploying an imaging panel in a first mode to receive radiation
from said apparatus below a patient plane and in a second characterization mode at
said patient plane; said deploying means comprising a vertical drive unit adjustably
attachable at a mounting cavity to a telescoping support; and a mounting unit adjustably
attachable to said vertical drive unit, and adapted to deploy said imaging panel from a
vertical position to a horizontal position.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A portal imaging system, comprising:
a radiation delivery apparatus; and
means for deploying an imaging panel in a first mode to receive radiation
from said apparatus below a patient plane and in a second mode at said patient plane,
said deploying means comprising:
a vertical drive unit adjustably attachable at a mounting cavity to a support;
and
a mounting unit adjustably attachable to said vertical drive unit, and

adapted to deploy said imaging panel from a vertical position to a horizontal position;
wherein said deploying means further comprises means for adjusting said vertical drive unit in said first mode such that a top of said support is substantially adjacent a top of said mounting cavity, and in said second mode such that a bottom of said support is substantially adjacent a bottom of said mounting cavity.

12. (Original) A system according to claim 11, comprising:
means for temporarily securing said imaging panel to said support; and
means for temporarily unsecuring a main drive assembly from said support.

13. (Currently Amended) A portal imaging device method, comprising:
providing a telescoping support attachable at a first end to a treatment gantry; and
providing a vertically-adjustable portal imaging device positioner, said portal imaging device positioner operable in a first mode and a second mode, wherein in said first mode said portal imaging device positioner maintains an imaging panel in position to receive radiation through a body maintained in a patient plane, and wherein in said second mode portal imaging device positioner maintains said imaging panel to receive radiation at said patient plane in a characterization mode.

14. (Currently Amended) A portal imaging device method, comprising:
providing a telescoping support attachable at a first end to a treatment gantry; and
providing a vertically-adjustable portal imaging device positioner, said portal imaging device positioner operable in a first mode and a second mode, wherein in said first mode said portal imaging device positioner maintains an imaging panel in

position to receive radiation through a body maintained in a patient plane, and wherein in said second mode portal imaging device positioner maintains said imaging panel to receive radiation at said patient plane in a characterization mode;

said vertically-adjustable portal imaging device positioner including:

a vertical drive unit adjustably attachable at a mounting cavity to said support; and

a mounting unit adjustably attachable to said vertical drive unit, and adapted to deploy said imaging panel from a vertical position to a horizontal position.

15. (Previously Presented) A portal imaging device method, comprising: providing a support attachable at a first end to a treatment gantry; and providing a vertically-adjustable portal imaging device positioner, said portal imaging device positioner operable in a first mode and a second mode, wherein in said first mode said portal imaging device positioner maintains an imaging panel in position to receive radiation through a body maintained in a patient plane, and wherein in said second mode portal imaging device positioner maintains said imaging panel to receive radiation at said patient plane

said vertically-adjustable portal imaging device positioner including:

a vertical drive unit adjustably attachable at a mounting cavity to said support; and

a mounting unit adjustably attachable to said vertical drive unit, and adapted to deploy said imaging panel from a vertical position to a horizontal position;

wherein said vertical drive unit is adjustable in said first mode such that a top of said support is substantially adjacent a top of said mounting cavity, and adjustable in said second mode such that a bottom of said support is substantially adjacent a bottom of said mounting cavity.

16. (Original) A method according to Claim 15, wherein said imaging panel is adapted to be temporarily secured to said support during an adjustment from said first mode to said second mode.